

ADMISSION NOTES FOR RUSHCLIFFE VETERINARY CENTRE

We appreciate that this is an anxious time and so we have compiled this sheet to answer some common questions.

Unless otherwise specified withhold food from midnight the night before and keep cats in overnight. Water should be left down. Try to give your pet an opportunity to go to the toilet before your admission appointment with the nurse. Please have dogs on leads, and cats in secure baskets.

The nurse will ask you to read and sign a consent form - please check that the details are correct and that we have a daytime contact phone number. Feel free to ask questions, and mention any problems or additional procedures you may wish to have done (e.g. express anal glands).

This is an important time - please allow 10 - 15 minutes of your time.

Your pet will be weighed for drug dosing, and in most cases a premed will be given to relax your pet and improve the induction and recovery from anaesthesia. Most operations are done in the morning to allow plenty of recovery time, but please remember that there will be several in-patients on a given day, and that certain procedures may take precedence. In exceptional circumstances some operations will be done in the afternoon. All patients receive a full examination before being anaesthetised using the latest techniques and materials to reduce patient risk and recovery time to the minimum.

Pre-operative blood tests or concurrent intravenous fluids may be suggested where appropriate. Dogs and cats aged over 10 years (and giant dog breeds aged over 8 years) are more likely to have hidden illnesses, undetectable without further tests. **As a result, we strongly recommend a pre-anaesthetic blood screen for any patient over 10 years of age.** Although this involves additional cost it can give us a lot of information about your pet's health, highlighting hidden problems and possibly avoiding serious consequences. If the results are normal it gives you the confidence that your pet is fit to undergo an anaesthetic. The extra costs for a full blood screen is £85.60.

Please note, however, that **all** anaesthetic and surgical techniques carry a small risk.

During the day you will be contacted concerning your pet's progress and to arrange a suitable time for collection. All discharges after 5 pm will need an appointment with a nurse, otherwise a lengthy wait may result. At discharge you will be given a further update by the vet or nurse (as appropriate) and any further information you may require. Make sure you ask any questions you may have.

Usually you will be asked to keep your pet quiet for several days and to feed a specialised post operative recovery diet. Dressings should be kept clean and dry. Any unusual swelling, discharge or discomfort at surgical sites should be reported to the surgery. We usually check patients several days later and remove stitches after ten days. This may be done by a nurse or vet depending on the procedure.

Be prepared that payment is expected on collection of your pet. We accept most major credit cards and debit cards, and, of course, cash or a cheque with a bankers card.

We hope this information will make the day a little easier - feel free to phone us at any time if you are worried.

Remember

- **Withhold food from midnight the night before.**
- **Give the pet the opportunity to go to the toilet before admission.**
- **Admission is by appointment.**
- **Have dogs on a lead and cats in a secure basket.**
- **Check details on the consent form are correct and leave a contact phone number.**